

It is time that brethren in the ministry, who are congregationalists, should speak out in resistance to the tendency abroad among the clergy to grasp after power by including in Pastoral Rights, what are not pastoral rights. I believe in & love the office of the ministry, but I will not allow my regard to the office, to induce me to wink at or sanction an abuse of the office by its incumbents. On the contrary, my regard to the Office & my anxiety to secure to it its legitimate influence, is the very reason for withstanding all abuse of it, & all encroachments under sanction

of it, on the rights of the people.

And here let me say, that my agency brings me into contact generally with the laity, & especially that portion of the laity who feel most aggrieved by the positions taken by the Gen. Ass. of Mass. & Ct., & I tell you what I know when I assure you that those attempts to claim for the clergy rights which are not theirs are doing more, infinitely more to un hinge their confidence in the Christian ministry, as an institution, than all that Garrison & the Quakers all together ever have or can say. The people see, what is fact, that it is an encroachment on their rights, indicating a disposition to "lord it over God's heritage", & they are at once thrown into the attitude of suspicion & jealousy. They find the ministry banding together, in General & District Ass. in an encroachment on their rights

& they don't know what to make of it.
The ministry have made issue with them
& they feel constrained to join issue in
return. And rely upon it they will
do it. Indeed they have done it, & in
some cases quite too effectually, for they
have even been driven to the other ex-
treme & done, in some cases, what
was perhaps a violation of pastoral
rights, at least of Christian propriety. And
I confess I tremble when I look abroad
& see the indications there are that
the ministry & the people will join issue
on the general question of their respec-
tive rights. Such a collision, will not
indeed annihilate the ministerial office,
but triumph as the people will & triumph in
any such contest, it will annihilate the
usefulness if not the employment of the
present incumbents. How such a res-
ult is to be prevented I know not,
except it be, by those who are in fact,
true congregationalists standing out not
only in vindication of our own but of
the people's rights also. Let the people see
that there are ministers who are not.

again or unwilling to stand by their rights here may cause them & the minds of
too many the present results to which solely relying testimony are hastening us. You
have some well, let them

Paid Che 7th 12.18.

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